AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parentheses, underlined text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

1-21. (Cancelled)

22.   (Previously Presented)   A method of determining a reference picture for decoding a current field macroblock, comprising:

determining a reference picture for the current field macroblock from a reference picture list composed of reference frames, by a decoder, the reference picture being one of a P-picture and I-picture, the determined reference picture being one of a top field and a bottom field of a reference frame;

wherein the determining step determines a field having a same parity as the current macroblock or a different parity from the current macroblock as a reference picture based upon reference picture index information, index information for the reference frame and field parity of the current field macroblock.

23.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

encoding/decoding the field macroblock using the determined reference picture.

24.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 23, wherein if the reference picture index information is an even index number, then the determined field has a same parity as the current field macroblock.

25.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 23, wherein if the reference picture index information is an even index number, then the determined field has a field parity different from the current field macroblock.

26. (New) A method of processing a current field macroblock, comprising:

obtaining a reference picture list inluding multiple reference pictures;

obtaining motion vector information for the current field macroblock;

obtaining a field reference picture index associated with the current field macroblock;

determining a frame reference picture index based on the field reference picture index the frame reference picture index being based on the field reference picture index divided by 2;

selecting a frame reference picture based on the frame reference picture index and the reference picture list;

selecting a field reference picture based on the selected frame reference picture and the field reference picture index; and

decoding the current macroblock based on the motion vector information and the selected field reference picture by a decoder.